

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An applicator configured to apply a substance on a portion of the human body, the applicator comprising an applicator element comprising:
  - at least two walls forming therebetween a cavity suitable for retaining the substance;
  - at least one slot that extends along a longitudinal axis and through which the substance contained in said cavity is dispensed in order to be applied; and
  - at least one opening whereby the cavity opens to the outside, said opening comprising at least one portion with a width in a plane extending transversely to the slot that is greater than a width of the slot in the same plane.
2. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot is situated between the two walls.
3. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the walls have an elongate shape with a longitudinal axis that is substantially parallel to the axis of the slot.
4. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot is entirely separate from the opening.
5. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot is situated substantially opposite from the opening.
6. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein a cross-section of the applicator element is substantially shaped as at least one of a V-shape, a C-shape, a U-shape and a W-shape; and
  - wherein at least one slot is formed through a bottom of a concave portion of the V-, C-, U-, or W-shape.
7. An applicator according to claim 6, the walls defining a U-shaped cross-section, wherein the slot is formed between two substantially parallel rims connected to a bottom of the U-shape.
8. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the applicator element has at least two substantially parallel slots.
9. An applicator according to claim 8, the two walls defining a W-shaped cross-section, wherein the two slots are formed through bottoms of two concave portions of the W-shape.
10. An applicator according to claim 8, the two walls defining a V-shaped cross-section, wherein the two slots are formed through either side of a bottom of a concave portion of the V-shape.

11. An applicator according to claim 6, wherein the applicator element has a V-shaped cross-section, with each limb of the V-shape having an outwardly-directed concave face.
12. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot extends in a substantially rectilinear direction.
13. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot extends along a curve.
14. An applicator according to claim 13, wherein said curve is concave.
15. An applicator according to claim 13, wherein said curve is convex.
16. An applicator according to claim 13, wherein the curve is substantially a portion of one of a circle and an ellipse.
17. An applicator according to claim 13, wherein curve is an undulating curve.
18. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot has edges of substantially linear shape.
19. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot has serrated edges.
20. An applicator according to claim 19, wherein the edges of the slot comprise two rows of teeth.
21. An applicator according to claim 20, wherein the respective teeth of said rows are in registration with one another.
22. An applicator according to claim 20, wherein the respective teeth of said rows are disposed in a staggered configuration.
23. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot is uninterrupted along its entire length.
24. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the slot is interrupted by at least one bridge of material interconnecting the two walls.
25. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the opening is uninterrupted.
26. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the opening is interrupted by at least one bridge of material interconnecting the two walls.
27. An applicator according to claim 1 and including a stem, wherein the slot extends substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the stem.
28. An applicator according to claim 1 and further comprising a stem, the slot extending substantially perpendicularly to a longitudinal direction of the stem.
29. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the applicator element is flocked, at least in part.

30. An applicator according to claim 29, wherein the opening has at least one edge that is flocked at least in part.

31. An applicator according to claim 30, wherein the opening has two substantially-parallel edges that are flocked.

32. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the walls are elastically deformable.

33. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the walls are made of a rigid material.

34. An applicator according to claim 1, wherein the applicator element comprises at least one of a thermoplastic material, a thermosetting material, an elastomer, glass, wood and metal.

35. An applicator according to claim 1, further comprising a handle member.

36. A packaging and applicator device for a substance, the device comprising:  
a receptacle containing a substance for application; and  
an applicator according to claim 1.

37. A device according to claim 36, wherein said substance comprises a cosmetic.

38. A device according to claim 36, wherein the applicator is releasably secured to the receptacle.

39. A device according to claim 38, wherein the applicator is arranged to be capable of closing the receptacle in a leaktight manner.

40. A device according to claim 38, further comprising a wiper.

41. A device according to claim 40, wherein the wiper comprises a block of foam.

42. A device according to claim 36, wherein the applicator is permanently fixed to the receptacle and includes an internal channel that enables the substance contained in the receptacle to flow into the cavity of the applicator element.

43. A method for applying a substance to at least one of the body and the face comprising:

dispensing the substance to at least one of the body and the face with the applicator as defined in claim 1.

44. The method according to claim 43, wherein for the substance is applied to at least one of nails, eyelashes, eyebrows, skin and lips.

45. A method of applying a substance to a portion of the human body, the method comprising:

providing an applicator comprising:

at least two walls forming therebetween a cavity suitable for retaining the substance;

at least one slot that extends along a longitudinal axis and through which the substance contained in said cavity is dispensed in order to be applied; and

at least one opening whereby the cavity opens to the outside, said opening comprising at least one portion with a width in a plane extending transversely to the slot that is greater than a width of the slot in the same plane;

loading the cavity with substance; and

applying the substance to the portion of the human body via at least one of the slot and the opening.

46. A method according to claim 45, wherein the opening comprises at least one edge that is flocked at least in part.

47. A method according to claim 46, wherein the opening comprises two opposite edges that are flocked.

48. A device according to claim 36, wherein said substance comprises a care product.